

ABSTRACT

A scalable distributed multimedia streaming system employs at least one media station having a media director and a plurality of media engines. Each media engine incorporates media content storage, communications channels for retrieving and streaming media content over a network. The media director has a controller adapted for directing retrieval over the network of media content by a selected media engine, tracking content stored on the media engines and redirecting a content request from a media console connected to the one media station over the network to a selected one of the media engines storing content corresponding to the request for streaming. Multiple media stations are employed to expand the network using a media location registry as a central repository for storing the location of all media content in the media stations. Intercommunication between the media stations for transfer of content is accomplished through the network.